| 1 | UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS |
| 3 | * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * |
| 4 | * CRIMINAL ACTION v. * No. 21-10256-RWZ-1, 3 |
| 5 | * KINGSLEY R. CHIN, and * |
| 6 | SPINEFRONTIER, INC * * * * * * * * * * * * * |
| 7 | |
| 9 | BEFORE THE HONORABLE M. PAGE KELLEY |
| 10 | UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE ARRAIGNMENT |
| 11 | September 20, 2021 |
| | |
| 12 | APPEARANCES: |
| 13 | UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, (By AUSA David G. Lazarus, AUSA David J. Derusha, AUSA Abraham R. George, and AUSA Patrick M. Callahan) 1 Courthouse Way, Suite |
| 15 | 9200, Boston, Massachusetts, 02210, on behalf of the United States of America |
| 16 | QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART & SULLIVAN, LLP, (By William D. Weinreb, Esq.) 111 Huntington Avenue, Suite 520, |
| 17 | Boston, Massachusetts, 02199, on behalf of Defendants |
| 18 | |
| 19 | |
| 20 | Courtroom No. 25 |
| 21 | (Via Videoconference) |
| 22 | 1 Courthouse Way Boston, Massachusetts 02210 |
| 23 | Tomos D. Cibi-sus DDD DMD |
| 24 | James P. Gibbons, RPR, RMR Official Court Reporter |
| 25 | 1 Courthouse Way, Suite 7205 Boston, Massachusetts 02210 jamesgibbonsrpr@gmail.com |

PROCEEDINGS

(VIA TELECONFERENCE)

THE CLERK: Today is Monday, September 20, 2021, and we are on the record in the Criminal Case No. 21-10256, the United States versus Chin, et al., the Honorable M. Page Kelley presiding.

Will counsel please identify yourselves for the record.

MR. LAZARUS: Good afternoon, your Honor. David Lazarus on behalf of the United States, along with my colleagues, Abe George, Patrick Callahan, and David Derusha, and if it's acceptable to your Honor, our intention is to have Mr. Derusha speak as to the arraignment and the initial for the company, and I will handle the initial and the arraignment as to Dr. Chin.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much, and welcome.

MR. WEINREB: Good afternoon, your Honor. William Weinreb on behalf of Dr. Chin, who is present.

THE COURT: All right. Good afternoon.

PROBATION OFFICER: Good afternoon, your Honor.

Doris Fitzpatrick for Probation.

THE COURT: Hello, Ms. Bello.

So who's representing the company?

MR. WEINREB: I'm here on behalf of the company as

25 well.

THE COURT: All right.

2.2

You know, I've never arraigned a company. So this is a first for me.

Okay. So welcome everyone, and this is the initial appearance in this district for this case, and also I hope we'll arraign Mr. Chin, and I see there Mr. Chin.

How are you, sir?

THE DEFENDANT: I'm fine, thank you, your Honor. Thank you for asking.

THE COURT: All right. So I assume you were given all the boilerplate warnings at your first initial, but I'm going to go ahead and do them here because I think it's required.

First of all, this is your initial appearance in federal court in Massachusetts. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can be used against you, and if you wanted to say anything about the case, you can talk to Mr. Weinreb before you did that.

So do you understand your right to remain silent?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay.

And I know Mr. Weinreb has entered his appearance for you, so that's great. And we don't need to talk about your right to representation.

Have you had a chance to go over the indictment here

with Mr. Weinreb so that you understand what it is that you're charged with?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay.

2.2

And I'm going to ask the government now to state the charges against both Mr. Chin -- Dr. Chin, excuse me, and the company and the maximum possible penalties that someone would face if they were convicted of these charges.

MR. LAZARUS: Each defendant, both Dr. Chin and the company, are charged in Count One with conspiracy to violate the anti-kickback statute, in violation of 18 USC, 371; in Counts Two through Seven, both of these defendants are charged with substantive anti-kickback statute violations in violation of 42 USC, 1320a-7b. And both defendants are also charged in Count Eight with conspiring to commit money laundering, in violation of 18 United States Code, Section 1956(h).

As to Dr. Chin, the maximum penalties for Count One are a term incarceration of up to five years, supervised release of no more than three years, a fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greater, a mandatory special assessment of \$100, forfeiture, and restitution.

For Counts Two through Seven, Dr. Chin faces a maximum term of incarceration of up to ten years, supervised release

2.2

of not more than three years, a fine of not more than \$100,000, special assessment of \$100 per count, forfeiture, and restitution.

And as to Count Eight, Dr. Chin faces a term of incarceration of up to 20 years, supervised release of not more than three years, a fine up to \$500,000 or twice the value of the property involved in the transactions, whichever is greater, a special assessment of \$100, forfeiture, and restitution.

And I'll let Mr. Derusha, if it's all right with the Court, speak with regard to the penalties as to the company.

MR. DERUSHA: Good afternoon, your Honor. For each of Count One through Eight, SpineFrontier as an organization may be fined up to \$500,000 or twice the gross pecuniary gain or loss, whichever is greater, a term of probation of up to five years, a mandatory special assessment of \$100, and forfeiture and restitution as may be applicable, and that's for each of Counts One through Eight for SpineFrontier.

THE COURT: Okay, thank you.

And I forgot at the initial stages of this hearing to ask Dr. Chin, you know, sir, you have the right to be present in court with me for this hearing today, but you can waive that right if you want to. And is it okay with you if we conduct the hearing by Zoom?

```
1
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. Thank you.
 2
                THE COURT: Okay.
            And any objection to that, Attorney Weinreb?
 3
                MR. WEINREB: No, your Honor.
 4
                THE COURT: Okay. So I'm going to find that Dr.
 5
 6
       Chin's waiver of his right to be present in court is knowing
 7
       and voluntary, and it's necessary to conduct the hearing
       this way because of the COVID pandemic.
 8
 9
            So, Attorney Weinreb, is Dr. Chin ready to be arraigned
10
       today?
11
                MR. WEINREB: He is.
12
                THE COURT: And does he waive the formal reading of
13
       the indictment?
14
                MR. WEINREB: Yes, he does.
15
                THE COURT: Okay. So, Dr. Chin, I'm going to ask
16
       my clerk Leo Vieira to arraign you.
17
                THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, your Honor.
18
                THE CLERK: Mr. Chin, as to Count One of the
19
       indictment charging you with conspiracy to violate the
20
       anti-kickback statute, Title 18, United States Code, Section
       371, how do you plead, "guilty" or "not guilty"?
21
2.2
                THE DEFENDANT: Not guilty.
23
                THE CLERK: As to Counts Two through Seven of the
24
       indictment, charging you with violations of the
       anti-kickback statute, Title 42, United States Code,
25
```

```
1
       Section 1320a-7b(b)(1)(B), (b)(2)(B), how do you plead,
 2
       "quilty" or "not quilty"?
 3
                THE DEFENDANT: Not quilty.
                THE CLERK: And to Count Eight of the indictment,
 4
 5
       charging you with conspiracy to commit money laundering,
       Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h), how do you
 6
 7
       plead, "quilty" or "not quilty"?
                THE DEFENDANT: Not quilty.
 8
 9
                THE COURT: Okay, thank you.
10
            So, Attorney Weinreb, I think my understanding of the
11
       rules is just appear on behalf of the company, and you can
12
       stand in for the arraignment, correct?
13
                MR. WEINREB: That's correct, your Honor. I
       believe all there is to do is enter a plea of "not guilty"
14
15
       on behalf of the company, which I'm prepared to do.
16
                THE COURT: Okay. So we will just have the record
17
       reflect, Mr. Vieira, that Attorney Weinreb on behalf of the
18
       company, SpineFrontier, Incorporated, enters a plea of "not
19
       quilty" to the relevant counts in the indictment.
20
            Okay. So I would like to continue this to November 22
21
       at 10:30 a.m., which is when we have the co-defendant,
       Mr. Hummad on for an initial status conference.
2.2
23
            I know that's not giving you much time, Mr. Weinreb,
24
       but I'm happy to continue it for more than one interim if
       you need that time. So is that okay with you?
25
```

MR. WEINREB: I'm sorry, November 22? 1 2 THE COURT: Yes, at 10:30 a.m. 3 MR. WEINREB: Yes, that's a good time. Thank you. THE COURT: Okay. And I'm going to exclude the 4 time for both the company and Dr. Chin until that date. 5 6 And what else do we need to do today? 7 I'm assuming there's nothing to say about detention. Dr. Chin was already released. I've looked at the 8 9 conditions. They look fine to me. And Probation has no 10 comment about the conditions either. 11 Would the parties like to be heard? 12 MR. WEINREB: Your Honor, with respect -- go ahead. 13 MR. LAZARUS: I would just say, your Honor -- thank 14 you. 15 I understand Mr. Weinreb does want to be heard, and I 16 would just say at this outset that the conditions that were 17 set in Florida were set by the judge there. And that Mr. --Dr. Chin had his Boston counsel present for the remote 18 19 hearing as well as somebody standing in as local counsel. 20 Those conditions were recommended by government after careful consideration of Dr. Chin's finances, his ties to 21 2.2 the community, and his ties to Jamaica, and his risk of --23 significant risk of flight. And it's our position that that 24 hearing was conducted on the merits in Florida and that at

this point the District Court here could review those

25

conditions but that the defendant should not get a second bite at the apple before your Honor with respect to those conditions, that the conditions that were set transferred here by the terms of the bond and by the terms of the statute.

And we would just note that Dr. Chin has been ordered to secure his appearance, and we think that that's really important, and we would ask that he do so as ordered by the court -- the Magistrate Court in Florida, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay, thank you.

Attorney Weinreb?

2.2

MR. WEINREB: Yes.

Your Honor, we would like to ask the Court to revisit those conditions of release. My understanding of the Rule 5 proceeding that took place in Florida was that was a proceeding of limited scope. The conditions that were set were simply to ensure that he would appear in front of this Court to be arraigned.

Now we're talking about the conditions that will govern him throughout the entire course of this proceeding, a much lengthier period of time, where the Court has to take special consideration of not just the risk of flight but ensuring that he's able to remain employed, gainfully employed, that he can have other reasonable accommodations that he needs to live his life, and that -- the case in

2.2

Florida is terminated once the case is brought here, although the statute does say that any bail that he posted gets transferred. It doesn't say anything about other conditions of release.

So I believe this Court needs to reimpose conditions of release, and we have conditions to propose. Among other things, one of the conditions, the one that appears to be the most important to the government, which was a bond to secure his appearance, the Florida Court ordered a so-called corporate security bond. That simply doesn't exist in Massachusetts. It was abolished years ago because it requires defendants to pay money up front that's nonrefundable simply to get out of court, and here bonds can only be secured in other ways.

So I think there is no choice but to revisit those conditions, even if the Court were inclined to accept them.

So we understand that the government has an interest in assuring that Dr. Chin not flee, and that he appear as required. And I have spoken to the government about that. We didn't have a chance before this hearing to reach an agreement on any particular set of conditions. But keeping in mind that they have to be the least restrictive to achieve that goal, we would propose a \$500,000 bond secured by \$150,000 lien on Dr. Chin's residence in Florida, twice weekly check-ins with Pretrial, domestic travel restricted

to the continental United States.

2.2

And then in terms of contact with -- there's a very extensive no-contact order in place. We don't disagree with that in principle, but some of the individuals who were covered by that are people who were Dr. Chin's either employees or officers of companies, basically coworkers, with whom he has to be able to communicate in order to do business.

So we would propose that with respect to current and former officers and employees of his practice, and of the KIC companies that he -- over which he is the controlling shareholder of and hopes to operate, that contact with them be permitted so long as there's no discussion of the case or the facts underlying it, and that contact with others who are on the list be permitted so long as there's is a lawyer present.

I would mention -- Mr. Lazarus said that Dr. Chin was represented in the hearing down in Florida, and that's true, but I believe at that point his counsel was under the impression that Dr. Chin would be arraigned here before he needed to post any kind of bond or before any of those other conditions became a meaningful restraint and at that point they would go away and they would be revisited here.

So I don't think anybody has been ever made a complete presentation of the reasons why he is not a risk of flight

and can be counted on to appear when required.

And with the Court's permission, I would like to do that, if it would be helpful to hear something --

THE COURT: Sure.

2.2

So what's the state of the bond now because I noticed from the papers it was supposed to be posted a week from his appearance in Florida?

MR. LAZARUS: Your Honor, may I --

THE COURT: Yes.

Let Mr. Weinreb answer, and then I will be happy to hear from you.

MR. LAZARUS: I apologize, Mr. Weinreb.

MR. WEINREB: So the Court in Florida ordered a \$250,000 corporate secured -- I'm sorry. A \$1 million corporate security bond.

And in Florida what that means is that he would have had to pay 15 percent of that amount, \$150,000, to a bail bondsman, and it would be a nonrefundable payment.

And, in addition, that bond would be tied to the case in Florida. When that case in Florida was terminated and this was began, that \$150,000 would be gone forever. And it was only going to be lasting a few days before he came here.

Originally, it was thought that he was going to be arraigned here this -- a week ago on Monday, which would have been within the week he was given to post the bond. I

was not available on Monday because I had a witness in the "Varsity Blues'" case that was testifying. I requested that it be continued to Wednesday so that it would still be within the week, but the court was all filled up on Wednesday, so we got placed on this Monday.

We filed a motion with the court in Florida to extend the time for posting the bond an additional week. The government assented to that request. That request was granted.

And now that Mr. -- I'm sorry. Now that Dr. Chin has, in fact, been arraigned and this Court is going to set conditions of release, that case is going to be terminated. And so that bond is never going to have to be purchased.

So that's where things stand with respect to what happened in Florida.

THE COURT: Thank you.

So, Mr. Lazarus?

2.1

2.2

MR. LAZARUS: Yes, your Honor.

There's a few points that I would just like to address. One, the discussions with prior counsel for Dr. Chin about the bond in Florida were surrounded on the idea that this is what he was going to have to do to have his release. There was no discussion that they were temporary or that it was only until arraignment.

And I understand Mr. Weinreb is at the disadvantage of

coming in after that, so he wasn't a part of any of those discussions, but there was nothing on the record at that hearing, which I viewed, or in the discussions leading up to it, to suggest these are temporary.

If I may share my screen, your Honor, I would like to show the Court a copy of the bond on file with the Florida Court.

THE COURT: Okay. Yes.

2.2

MR. LAZARUS: It looks like it's disabled.

Mr. Vieira, may I have permission to share?

THE CLERK: Yes. I'll turn that on right now.

MR. LAZARUS: Thank you, sir.

So, your Honor, on the screen here this is for -- I'll just scroll up so you can see. This is in the Florida docket. It's Docket No. 8 in the Florida case.

And the bond that's here, I have highlighted a couple parts. First of all, it's a million-dollar corporate surety bond with a *Nebbia* hearing to be posted.

And then it includes some language, including here at the end of this paragraph, "this is a continuing bond, including any proceeding on appeal or review which shall remain in full force or effect until such time as the court shall order otherwise. It also contemplates appearances in this district or any other United States District Court to which the defendant may be held to answer or the cause

transferred.

2.2

So the bond itself does not talk about any limited duration for the conditions.

THE COURT: Can you just enlarge that again.

MR. LAZARUS: Yes, your Honor. Absolutely. Is that better?

THE COURT: What is "Nebbia"?

MR. LAZARUS: A Nebbia is essentially a hearing in which the defendant -- my understanding is the defendant has to prove to the court's satisfaction that the source of the funds that are posted as bond are untainted. And they're ordered routinely in Florida, and the judge there inquires whether there's any reason not to do it in this case and then ordered it in this case as well.

THE COURT: So here's the problem, Mr. Lazarus. I don't know if you want to brief this or whatever, but I routinely alter conditions of release on cases where people have been released out of other districts and I need to alter the conditions for some reason. Sometimes people agreed to a curfew and it doesn't go with their work schedule or whatever happens. I frequently change the initial conditions.

Because I do think it's my case now, and I know he's supervised out of Florida, and I would certainly be interested in what any Florida probation officer had to say

about the conditions, but I don't know that I am bound by that judge's determination at the initial appearance there.

And also, do you really think he needs to forfeit \$150,000 just to post a bond in this case?

2.2

MR. LAZARUS: So, your Honor, no is the easy answer to that question, no.

But I think that when your Honor is changing circumstances it's because the motion is essentially one for a change of conditions based on a change of circumstances.

There are no change of circumstances here, and --

THE COURT: So I would say, though, I am -- I think that's terrible, that they're going to make him pay \$150,000, and it seems unconstitutional to me. I don't like that.

MR. LAZARUS: So, your Honor -- so if the Court is not inclined to agree with us, and there's a Tenth Circuit case on this, and there's a number of district courts' opinions, but if the Court is inclined not to agree on it, I don't want to waste the Court's time briefing these issues.

If the Court is considering it, securing his appearance is what's important, your Honor.

THE COURT: I agree.

MR. LAZARUS: So what I would like to just say in that respect is this is an individual who in April of 2020, and I have documents to this effect, reported on a signed

2.2

document that he signed in support of a loan he was seeking, that his total assets minus liabilities were \$34,476,147, your Honor.

He also reported in another signed document that -- a personal financial statement that he submitted in connection with a different financing proceeding, that as of September 30, 2019, his total liabilities and net worth was \$36,228,270, your Honor.

So this is a defendant who a little over a year ago reported that he was worth \$34 million. So the idea that \$150,000 is sufficient to keep this defendant in the United States or appearing for the Court, that is -- I don't do math, your Honor, but that's a tiny percentage of his reported net worth.

In addition, the defendant owns property -- he owns -- I believe it's a condo in Jamaica. He's filed foreign bank account registration statements as required by law. I don't know whether he'll file one for last year. His time to do so is not run until October. But for at least the preceding several years he filed what are called "FBARs," your Honor, indicating that he's got foreign bank accounts in Jamaica, at lease one, and so he's got significant net worth.

As for strength of the case, your Honor, this is a case alleging a widespread kickback conspiracy essentially and money laundering from about 2012 through 2019 at least.

There are three defendants. This defendant was the CEO and founder of the company. He's the top, your Honor.

And strength of the case, it's set out in a very detailed speaking indictment.

2.2

And we, in addition, have secured guilty pleas and cooperation from one of the surgeons listed in the indictment, as well as one of the distributors listed in the indictment. And I believe it's four or five surgeons have settled civilly with the United States Attorney's Office as well.

And so the strength of the case is significant.

The defendant faces significant incarceration, significant financial penalties, restitution.

His guidelines, as we calculate them, and this is an approximation, your Honor, but based on our review, we think his guidelines without acceptance are somewhere around 151 to 188 months.

And so he's a defendant with significant risk of flight and a lot to lose by conviction.

Now, we don't think he needs to be incarcerated while he's awaiting trial on this case. We think there are conditions that can be set. And those are the conditions that we've previously recommended, which is a million dollars bond secured by cash or real property, and the other conditions that were imposed, including travel restrictions

2.2

to Florida and the District of Massachusetts. We think that it is risky, too risky, in the analysis the Court has to undertake to permit Dr. Chin to travel around the country and certainly to travel to Jamaica.

We would, especially in the days of Zoom and Webex, and the pandemic has shown that geography is not as important as it otherwise was. So it would -- it's not necessarily reasonable to argue that you have to travel around the country, and so we would argue that limiting Dr. Chin's travel to Florida and Massachusetts is necessary.

The no-contact orders, as I think I understood them from Mr. Weinreb, sound reasonable; that if there are certain people that he needs to have contact with for current business, then we wouldn't oppose that if they're not talking about the current case. But it would depend on who some of those people are.

So, for example, with Mr. Hummad, the co-defendant, he had asked for permission to speak to certain doctors that he said was necessary, and I believe that the arrangement there is that he's going to have to talk to Pretrial and Probation and talk to us about who they are and sus out what our positions are going to be on those, and we would ask for something similar here.

The ongoing need to talk to surgeons who previously were associated is small. And so we don't think that's as

important.

2.2

And I'm just looking over my notes your Honor. I apologize. I'm seeing whether I missed anything.

I would also just point out another important fact that the Court should be aware of in addition to his reported high net worth, your Honor. The defendant's home in Florida, according to Redfin earlier today, is estimated to be worth \$3,804,891, so 3,804,891. It is encumbered. There are loans on the property, but there's also equity there.

I would note -- you know, again, your Honor, Dr. Chin has retained counsel and so seemingly he does have access to resources as well.

And then I think that -- and finally, your Honor,
Dr. Chin's a signatory on at least ten different bank
accounts. And according to our analysis at the FBI, over
the last nine years those accounts in aggregate have had
over \$100 million moving in and out. And so, even in
addition to his own net worth, those companies have had
significant money going in and out. Some of his companies,
I don't know the current state of them, but, for example,
some of his companies have had million dollar lines of
credit that he can draw on as needed.

And so the access to money, were Dr. Chin to choose to flee, appears to be significant, and so the only way to make sure that he's going to come back is to impose a

1 significant-enough condition to keep that high on his mind. 2 THE COURT: Have you frozen any of his assets? 3 MR. LAZARUS: No, your Honor. THE COURT: Do you know how much equity is in the 4 5 house? 6 MR. LAZARUS: Your Honor, it's difficult for me to 7 know based on the current payoff status on some of the loans, and so I don't know how much equity is in the house. 8 9 We've looked at the title, and we have a general sense that 10 there should be equity in that property. But how much 11 equity is there is difficult for me to say without 12 additional documentation. 13 THE COURT: Okay, Mr. Weinreb. 14 MR. WEINREB: Your Honor, what I am proposing in 15 the way of a bond is essentially the Massachusetts 16 equivalent of exactly what the Florida Court did. 17 So the Florida Court imposed a CSB with Nebbia, the 18 corporate security bond with Nebbia -- or surety bond, I'm 19 sorry. 20 Nebbia is just the name of a state court case in 21 Florida, and so there's a procedure that happens in state 2.2 court, and some of the federal judges have imported it to 23 federal court. I've never heard of anything like it in a 24 Massachusetts court or any other court.

As for the corporate surety bond, the way a corporate

25

2.2

surety bond works is basically it means you go to a bail bondsman. And you pay the bail bondsman, in this case because it's a federal felony, it has to be 15 percent of the total amount of the bond. So in this case you pay \$150,000, and effectively the rest of the bond is unsecured.

If the defendant defaults, if he doesn't show up for court as required, then the bail bondsman has a judgment against him for the entire \$1 million and becomes essentially a bounty hunter, can go all over the world trying to the find the defendant and bring him in.

In Massachusetts we have a more enlightened system.

They have abolished bail bondsmen. They've abolished the corporate surety bond. There's no way for that particular condition to be imposed here. There are no Massachusetts bail bondsmen. The Florida bail bondsmen are licensed to do business in Florida, not in Massachusetts.

What we are proposing is effectively the same thing. There would be a \$1 million unsecured bond secured by \$150,000, except we are proposing that it be \$150,000 in property, which is common in Massachusetts, as you know.

If the defendant defaults or fails to appear, then he'll be -- the court will have a judgment for a million dollars against him, or the U.S. Attorney's Office. I'm not sure exactly who actually owns that judgment.

But the court or the U.S. Attorney's Office can go

after him for the million dollars, and they can look to find him wherever he might be and haul him in. It's basically exactly the same thing.

THE COURT: So --

2.2

MR. WEINREB: Yes?

THE COURT: Go ahead.

MR. WEINREB: As for the issue of, you know, his wealth, so Dr. Kingsley is an orthopedic spine surgeon. He has a practice in Florida. He has a practice in Phoenix, and he is about to open a practice in Tucson. He is not just an orthopedic spine surgeon, but he's an inventor and innovator and has developed certain techniques to do minimally invasive spine surgery that doctors all over the country are eager to learn. And for that reason he often travels to hospitals in various parts of the country because doctors who want to perform this technique, there are hospitals where they have privileges, require that Dr. Kingsley teach them how to do it and then proctor them doing it several times.

And that is the reason why we requested travel throughout the continental United States, both so Dr. Kingsley can continue to engage in remunerative employment and be a productive member of society by helping sick patients get treatment that very few people are able to perform and helping doctors learn how to give that treatment

to others.

2.2

With respect to these documents, which I have never seen and was never shown by the government, in which Dr. Kingsley supposedly said he had \$38 million in assets or whatever it is, because I haven't seen them, I don't want to say what that might be.

But I will say that Dr. Kingsley, in addition to being a surgeon, is also, as I mentioned, an inventor. He holds over 50 patents. And there is a -- I don't know what its corporate constitution is but something called KICVentures. Kingsley is his first fame, Kingsley I. Chin Ventures, I believe. And it owns a number of small startup companies that are in the business of trying to develop products for spine surgery and other things and market them. And it may be that on paper some of these companies have a very large value because of their potential future earnings, but they don't -- he doesn't earn any money from KICVentures, a nominal amount, and we can demonstrate that, that his remuneration from those companies over time has been small. He mainly supports himself with his medical practice.

So he does have a home in Florida, as Mr. Lazarus mentioned. I believe that it was purchased for -- give me one moment here -- I believe it was purchased for \$2.3 million in 2015. He owes \$1.6 million on it.

It hasn't been -- you know, other than Zillow or

Redfin, I mean there's no actual official appraisal of what it's worth now.

But we do agree he has the \$150,000 in property that he could put up to secure a bond equivalent to what the Florida Court had ordered, and he's prepared to do that.

You know, to the extent the house is worth more or that he may have other sources of income, that's not a reason to increase the bond. I mean, the law says the conditions have to be the least restrictive that will assure his appearance in court. In Florida, despite the fact that nobody really argued on his behalf why he's not a risk of flight, that's all the court thought was necessary.

Nothing more is necessary here.

2.2

He's already had two weeks. If he wanted to flee, he could have gone. He didn't.

And on that score I would just like to say a few more things about Dr. Chin because I think it's important for the Court to know.

He is 57 years old. Although he was born in Jamaica, he came to the US in 1984 when he was 19 to attend Columbia College on a soccer scholarship, and he has lived in the US ever since for 37 years, and he's been a citizen for approximately 30 years.

He lives in Florida with his wife, Vanessa, and his three children who are ages eight, nine and eleven. All of

2.2

them are US citizens. All three children were born here and attend school in Florida.

He has a brother and two nieces who live in Boston. He has several aunts who live in the US.

So he has -- this is his country. This is his home.

He is no different from any other United States citizen and shouldn't be viewed or treated any differently simply because he was born in another country.

And he has been an extremely productive member of society from the day he got here. He has a BA, a BS, and an MD, did his residency here. And, as I mentioned, he is a highly trained orthopedic spine surgeon who has developed innovative products and techniques that have helped hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of patients.

There is no reason to believe that he is going to flee or that he won't appear as required. He is a surgeon. He knows how to show up on time where he's supposed to be.

And the reason we have asked for travel within the continental United States is because if he's going to maintain his employment, he needs to go to these various places to do his work. He needs to be able to go to Arizona where he has an existing practice. He needs to be able to go to the hospitals where he's training other doctors to perform these procedures.

And, frankly, he would also ask, although I realize

2.2

that this will be the most controversial ask that we would make, that he be allowed to travel to Jamaica for three days out of each month because he performs spine surgery there, and he is the only board certified spine surgeon in all of Jamaica. So either he goes to them or they have to come to him or to somebody else.

And, you know, I think we can easily arrange a procedure in which -- he's already surrendered his passport. Pretrial has it. I assume they have it in Florida. It's still there. I hope so.

And, you know, the arrangement could be that he will notify Pretrial of the proposed travel. They have to approve it. He will go there no more than three days before the trip to pick up his passport. He will travel solely for business purposes to perform surgeries. When he's done, he'll come back within three business days. He will have to return the passport. And if at any point his Pretrial Services officer believes he is a risk of flight, Pretrial can simply decide not to give it to him.

So that's the basis for our requests, and I believe that they are more than sufficient to ensure that he will appear as required.

MR. LAZARUS: Your Honor, may I respond briefly?

THE COURT: Yes, you may.

MR. LAZARUS: Thank you.

2.2

With respect to the house, we would ask that the entire million dollars be secured against the real property, your Honor. That was done in, I believe, the Facto [ph.] case, United States v. Facto, which counsel is no doubt very familiar with. I believe that the entire million dollars was secured there.

The difference in Florida with the bond is that if it's \$150,000, you also have the bail bondsman whose job it is, who's out there trying to find the defendant and to -- it's just a different scheme work -- a different framework.

There's no reason not to secure the full million dollars against the real property in light of his access to capital, all the things that I went over earlier, your Honor.

I would also note in terms of ties to the community and risk of flight, I don't know the current status of it, but according to the Florida Department of Health, the Board of Health website, they filed an administrative complaint against Dr. Chin in July of 2020 looking to, I believe, take his license. And I don't know that he has privileges at any hospitals in Florida. I believe he does surgery at his surgical center.

So I don't know, your Honor -- you know, in light of these different items that we've identified for the Court, the risks of the flight is significant, securing it for \$1 million is -- there's no harm to the defendant if he

2.2

doesn't flee. If he needs to refinance or sell the house or pull equity out of the property, your Honor, he can then, with a specific reason, revisit it with the Court. He can move based on whatever that need is at that time to lower the amount of the lien that's put on the house temporarily, assuming he shows up as he's supposed to.

And so the prejudice to him is very small, but the risk if he were to flee is very high, and so, therefore, the whole million dollars should be secured against the property.

And as far as traveling to Jamaica, your Honor, that is a -- as the Court's aware, a relatively unusual, I won't say unheard of but unusual, condition to allow a defendant on pretrial release, allowing him to leave the country. And we would urge the Court not to allow the defendant access to his passport and to leave the country.

And I would -- if I could just clarify the no-contact orders, your Honor, that I mentioned a little while ago.

What we are looking for is no contact with former employees of and distributors for SpineFrontier, AxioMed, KICVentures, and IME. No contact with former physician consultants. Some contact with, but no discussion of the case, with any current employees or current physician consultants, and whatever contact is necessary but no discussion of the case with any co-defendants without

counsel present, your Honor.

2.2

THE COURT: Okay.

So, Mr. Lazarus, I do just want to say as an aside, not to be catty, but I think you're asking -- you are now asking me to do exactly what you said I didn't have the authority to do a few minutes ago, which is to change the conditions.

So are we over that? Are we in agreement that I can set some conditions here?

MR. LAZARUS: So --

(Laughter.)

THE COURT: I mean, this happens all the time. We have Rule 5 in a different district, and the judge, on limited information, releases someone. And when we get up here, things are changed.

I mean, on notice I imposed basically all these same conditions with regard to Mr. Hummad, and I don't know if they weren't asked for down there, but they are not appearing in the original conditions. So I will just say, because the hearing is kind of dragging on here, I'm going to revisit the conditions and set the conditions that I think will secure Dr. Chin's appearance and also satisfy the government's concerns apparently about obstruction of justice and that type of thing.

So I would just ask you, if you don't mind, to reduce to writing what you just said because I was trying to take

2.2

it down word for word, and I can't trust myself to do so.

And I would like you to send it to Mr. Weinreb before you send it to the Court and ask Mr. Weinreb if he wants to tweak it at all. I'm inclined to do it. I did for the co-defendant.

And Mr. Weinreb, I guess there's some kind of convoluted thing where if your client needs to meet with doctors, et cetera, you're going to run that by the government. I think there's some problems with that, but I'm confident you can work something out. And so let's work out that condition about who he can have contact with and under what conditions.

Is that okay with you, Attorney Weinreb?

MR. WEINREB: Yeah, of course. I'm happy to work with the government and try and work something out.

But if I could just have the last word on the bond issue?

THE COURT: No. Don't say any more about the bond issue, because here's my concern. I think I've heard you a lot on that.

I'm reading from the Pretrial Services report. So the defendant reports a checking account that has a current balance of \$2,000. He can't recall any additional information about his business accounts for his medical practice. He might have a life insurance policy. He

2.2

doesn't remember. He doesn't know the current value of his practice. He bought his residence. He's got his monthly mortgage. He doesn't know what the outstanding mortgage on balance is. He's financing a 2018 Tesla X, but he doesn't know what he owes on that. And all this information was corroborated by his wife.

So, frankly, I've never seen anything so vague. And I know you haven't seen the documents from the government concerning his net worth, but surely you know his net worth, or if you don't, you need to ask him some questions about it.

And, frankly, I don't think \$150,000 or a million dollars is the correct amount for a secured bond without knowing what his assets are. And that's kind of, honestly, ridiculous.

\$150,000 is a ton of money to someone who only has that much money in the bank, but a million dollars might be a drop in the bucket to someone who has access to hundreds of millions of dollars.

So let's figure it out.

I would like him to be interviewed by Probation and for him to give Probation some numbers. If it's somehow incriminating, I don't know what to say. I don't know what to say about that.

But I can't set a secured bond amount without knowing

what he's worth, and one benchmark might be the equity in his house, if he wants to put that up. And that might be as good as we're doing.

So because the hearing has taken a lot longer than I thought a typical arraignment would, I need to take a short break. It will be about three minutes. And so I'm going to leave this meeting and make a phone call. So let's just take a three-minute break, and if you want to turn your screen off you can.

And Mr. Weinreb, if you want to go into a private room with your client, you're welcome to do that, but I will be right back.

(Pause in proceedings.)

Let's see. Before we wind up, I will hear you again if you want to be heard, Mr. Weinreb, but let me also just see. Does Probation have anything to add to this, because I know Probation in these situations usually contacts Probation in Florida.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much. I'm back.

PROBATION OFFICER: Yes, your Honor. Thank you for your time.

I wanted to just note that in reviewing the Pretrial report that was prepared in the Southern District of Florida, although they recommended a percentage bond and a personal security bond, they do not set, typically set, an

amount. It's set by the court. And I think, given the lack of information of the defendant's total assets, it makes it a little difficult at this time for us to make a formal recommendation of what that bond should be.

I heard the counsel's argument for a modification of conditions to include travel, and I do note that the defendant is on a curfew with GPS.

I think that after speaking with the probation officer in the Southern District of Florida, they have no objections to the home detention or curfew with location monitoring to be removed, but if it is to stay in place, they do ask that it be switched from the GPS to a radio frequency unit, or a unit to be determined by Probation and Pretrial Services.

Aside from that, I don't think there were any other conditions that needed modification from our end, but I just wanted to share that piece of information for your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

MR. LAZARUS: Your honor --

THE COURT: I appreciate that.

Yes? Go ahead.

2.2

MR. LAZARUS: Very briefly, with respect to the GPS, I think that the court imposed the GPS with the curfew until the defendant were to secure his appearance. And so we would ask that some type of electronic monitoring -- I would defer entirely to Probation as to the specifics of the

technology -- but some type of device be used until he secures his presence. I know that they can be cut off and that they're not always a guarantee of anything. And I've had personal experience in cases with that, but it's better than nothing. And we have the capabilities, and seemingly the defendant has the resources to pay for it. And so until such time as the defendant were to secure his attendance, we would ask that that continue.

And I would just -- well, I'll stop.

Thank you, your Honor.

2.2

THE COURT: All right. So here's what I'm inclined --

MR. WEINREB: Your Honor --

THE COURT: Let me say this, Mr. Weinreb, and then I'll hear from you.

So I am inclined to remove the GPS with the curfew. So no curfew, no GPS. But I do want the matter of the bond to be resolved first. So as soon as the bond is resolved, then the GPS and the curfew will be taken off the conditions.

Then with regard to the bond, I will leave the ball in your court, Mr. Weinreb. You can either have a discussion with your client and Probation about his assets, or, if you wish, you can have him post whatever equity there is in his home in the alternative for a secured bond for that amount.

And before you do that, I want you to talk to the

government about the amount.

2.2

So if, for example, you have a Zillow appraisal of -- I don't remember -- \$3.8 million and your client says that it's lower than that, I would go ahead and -- I think we accept those appraisals all the time on these types of bonds and figure out what is the equity in the home and put that up as the equity. And if it turns out he doesn't have that much equity, then the government can't get it.

But it will be a secured bond for a certain amount of money, which you will discuss with the government.

And if you have problems with that, Mr. Lazarus, you can come back to the court. You can just email Mr. Vieira. We will have another hearing about the precise amount.

I mean, I know that the judge in Florida -- I agree with you, Mr. Weinreb, that the judge in Florida basically it seems was going to fine him \$150,000 that he would lose, and then he would be in debt to a bail bondsman who would hunt him for the remainder of it, I guess, if he absconded.

I don't like that system. I think that's a terrible system, and I don't agree with it. And so I'm not going to impose anything like that.

My view is, you figure out what are the person's assets, what's a meaningful amount of money.

And I'll just say, Mr. Lazarus, as far as the bail bondsman hunting people down, I think the marshals are

1 pretty good at finding people in my experience. 2 MR. LAZARUS: I agree. I agree. 3 THE COURT: Yeah, yeah. And if you want, Mr. Lazarus, a partly secured and a 4 partly unsecured bond to get you up to a reasonable amount, 5 6 that's fine. 7 MR. LAZARUS: Agreed that the --THE COURT: So --8 9 MR. LAZARUS: I'm sorry. I thought you were done. 10 I agree the marshals are a wonderful resource, your 11 Honor. 12 THE COURT: Okay. 13 With regard to the no-contact order, I'm going to ask 14 the parties to confer on that. 15 And with regard to the travel, I'm going to ask you, 16 Mr. Weinreb, to, first of all, report to the Court, you're welcome to do it under seal, as to the status of your 17 18 client's medical licensure. 19 And then also as to the -- I forget what other question 20 the government raised about his travel. Well, I would like some type of verification that he --21 2.2 so what he's doing in Jamaica. And, also, do we have an 23 extradition treaty with Jamaica? 24 MR. LAZARUS: I believe we do, your Honor. 25 have to verify what offenses it covers, but I believe we do

have a treaty.

2.2

And if I'm wrong, your Honor, I will file something and let the Court know.

THE COURT: Okay.

And Mr. Weinreb, do you have a different Guidelines range without acceptance with the lower range being 151?

MR. WEINREB: Your Honor, frankly, I haven't had a chance to calculate the Guidelines range.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. WEINREB: So I would like to say, if now's the right time --

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. WEINREB: -- I think the question of Dr. Chin's assets, I would like to make sure that a lot of this loose talk about his assets that's coming from the government does not result in him actually losing access to all the assets he has. This is a time in his life where he needs every penny because he's got to be fighting a lot of charges against a very well-financed, well-resourced opponent.

And the statute does say that the conditions of release have to be the ones that are the least restrictive possible.

So I don't think simply saying, you know, it should be whatever his house is worth, if that's his only asset, that's really depriving him of all his resources.

THE COURT: So is that his only asset? Does he own

the property in Jamaica? Does he have access to bank accounts? If he has no assets, why is he negotiating to buy what I presume is an expense vehicle? And how is he paying his \$10,000 monthly mortgage?

And, you know, I just -- and also, what are his wife's assets, honestly, because I don't think it's just him, right.

So if you want to say he doesn't have any assets, that's fine. But as an officer of the court, you know, you're talking about "loose talk" about his assets, it is loose talk because none of us know because he wouldn't say, so...

MR. WEINREB: So, your Honor, can I just correct a misunderstanding here?

THE COURT: Okay.

2.2

MR. WEINREB: He was arrested -- in usual fashion, he was arrested by 12 agents who took him straight to jail, and he was interviewed by Pretrial in the holding cell. He was asked all these questions about his companies and about the revenues of his practice and so on. But he's a doctor. He performs surgeries. He's not an accountant. He doesn't do the books for his company or for his own practice. He has people who do that, and he handles the medical side of it.

He did not want to say something inaccurate and be

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

23

24

25

called a liar after the fact. So he's told the truth, which is that he didn't know the accurate information, and I think that's perfectly fair. Nobody told him afterwards -- nobody said, Find it out and come back to us or anything like that. He just then immediately went into court for his initial appearance and that was that. So I don't think it's fair to suggest that he was being, you know, purposely vague in order to hide anything. Secondly, we've heard about 38 million -- you know, millions of dollars. So Dr. Chin is the CEO of something called KICVentures. It is basically an investment holding company. THE COURT: I think you've already said this. MR. WEINREB: Yeah, but -- so I just want to make clear that all of that -- all of those assets are completely illiquid. There is no cash flow. THE COURT: You already said that. MR. WEINREB: Okay. THE COURT: So I don't know if that's what the government's talking about. I have no idea. I have no firm information. And I understand if there's something tricky about his finances that you don't want the government to know because

then they might freeze them all or that type of thing.

2.2

That's a big problem in the case, and I'm not going to put you on the spot right now and just start asking you questions about his net worth. But he has to have a net worth, and we don't know it, and someone ought to find it out.

Because to me he is a flight risk, but I think it can be mitigated. And you did a very nice job explaining who he his, his family, his ties to the country, et cetera. And I don't intend for him to put up every asset he has as an appearance bond. I don't think that's fair.

But, on the other hand, this is a serious case where he's looking at over ten years in prison if he gets convicted after trial, and I think he should put up some secured bond to assure his return to court.

I'm just finding that. I have no idea what the proper amount is because I don't know what he's worth. For someone who has a lot of money, a little bit of money is nothing.

And for someone who has no money, a small amount of money might do it.

So that's -- I can't really -- I can't really say what's the proper amount in this case.

So one thing is I think you could negotiate with the government and come up with an agreed amount and see if you can do that.

And once we do that, we'll get everything posted.

We'll take off his GPS, and then I would like you to give me some documentation about the work in Jamaica, and also about his licensure, and that he's not about to lose his license.

Because then if he's not, I'm -- and he is working in Jamaica, I'm happy to have another brief hearing -- hopefully briefer than this one -- where we talk about his travel. I'm happy to let him travel, but I would like some documentation about the claims about Jamaica.

MR. LAZARUS: Your Honor, as to Jamaica, your Honor, the latest FR that we have I believe is from 2019. I think it only talks --

THE COURT: What is an "FR"?

MR. LAZARUS: Foreign Bank Account Registration, your Honor.

THE COURT: I see.

2.2

MR. LAZARUS: And so I'm not asking for the defendant to tell the government that information. I don't think he has to tell the IRS that for another month or so.

But I would just ask when the Court's considering the information about Jamaica, if the bank account in Jamaica has a million dollars in it, I would argue that that's important for the Court to know. And so I would just ask the Court to also take that into consideration in any further decision that you're making as far as gathering information from the defendant, your Honor.

THE COURT: So in a month Dr. Chin will need to tell the government how much money he has in his Jamaican account?

2.2

MR. LAZARUS: I think that the filing requirement, and I would have to confirm the exact dates on this, but I was told by the forensic accountant at the FBI that they're due in mid October. And so that's my understanding.

The defendant has filed them in the past, and so if he still has a foreign bank account, not reporting it again would be a crime. He has reported it for the last several years in row. I don't have any reason to think he would not report it this year.

I'm just bringing to the Court's attention he has resources there that we don't know what they are, and we can't readily identify them; and I would just ask you when you're finding out about his business in Jamaica to also find out about his access to capital there.

THE COURT: Okay.

So, Mr. Weinreb, unless it impacts your client's defense in some way, I think if you talk to Probation about your client's assets, you should also talk about his assets overseas.

MR. WEINREB: Understood.

THE COURT: Okay.

So I'm going to let you, Mr. Weinreb, contact Probation

Officer Bello, and then we will regroup once I start getting some information from the parties on these various conditions.

Okay. So I'm going to continue this to November for an initial status conversation, and I will exclude the time, and is there anything else that we need to take up today?

PROBATION OFFICER: Your Honor, given that Dr. Chin is being supervised in Florida, I just want to make sure that I give them the proper notice of what occurred today.

So as of today are you modifying any of the conditions that were imposed in Florida?

THE COURT: Yes, I am. And so I think what I will do is I will just draft a quick docket entry about that that you can draw the probation officer's attention to in Florida.

PROBATION OFFICER: Excellent.

And then as I indicated, the probation officer in Florida just requests that we note that the monitoring system for the curfew, if it is going to continue until such time that a bond is paid, that it is the radio frequency unit.

THE COURT: Okay. So the curfew -- so right now the curfew is still on. And if the Probation Department in Florida wants to make that a radio frequency unit, they can do that.

1 PROBATION OFFICER: Thank you, your Honor. 2 THE COURT: Sure. 3 Okay. And then we'll just work out these other things in the coming days. 4 And so far I would say, except that the GPS unit is 5 6 going to be changed to one that works on radio frequency, 7 the conditions that were set in Florida are in place with the exception of the bond which we're still working out. 8 9 Okay. So he need not post a bond by any deadline right 10 now. 11 Okay. Anything else from anyone? 12 And we've done everything we need to with regard to the 13 company, right, Mr. Weinreb? 14 MR. WEINREB: As far as I'm aware, your Honor, 15 we've done everything. 16 THE COURT: All right. 17 MR. LAZARUS: And, your Honor, we're working with 18 Mr. Weinreb, and we'll work with the lawyer for Mr. Hummad 19 on a -- hopefully on an assented-to protective order so we 20 can get discovery over to the other side as quickly as 21 possible. 2.2 THE COURT: Great. 23 Okay. All right. And if you're running into 24 difficulties working these things out, just email Mr. Vieira

and we'll see everyone again.

25

1 I hope that -- I mean, we're going to have a hearing 2 soon anyway to nail all this down, but let's just try to work these things out, and then we'll get the conditions 3 settled out. 4 5 Okay. PROBATION OFFICER: Thank you, your Honor. 6 7 And can I request a breakout room with Attorney Weinreb and Dr. Chin for a few minutes at the conclusion of this 8 9 hearing? 10 THE COURT: Yes. No problem. 11 Okay. So, Dr. Chin and Attorney Weinreb, just stay on 12 the line. You're going to go into a private room with 13 Ms. Bello. 14 And for everyone else, thank you very much. The 15 hearing is terminated. 16 MR. WEINREB: Thank you, your Honor. 17 MR. LAZARUS: Thank you, your Honor. 18 (Proceedings adjourned.) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

CERTIFICATE

I, James P. Gibbons, Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages are a true and accurate transcription of my shorthand notes taken in the aforementioned matter to the best of my skill and ability.

/s/James P. Gibbons
James P. Gibbons

November 18, 2021

JAMES P. GIBBONS, CSR, RPR, RMR
Official Court Reporter
1 Courthouse Way, Suite 7205
Boston, Massachusetts 02210
jamesgibbonsrpr@gmail.com